

"For these two reasons, therefore, the visibility of many inflammations of the eye, and the accuracy with which a complete cure can be known, it is surely desirable that those who, as a general rule, condemn the abstraction of blood and the use of mercury in the treatment of inflammation, should leave the pulmonary textures, and draw illustration of their doctrine from the organ of vision."

39. *Secale Cornutum in Asthenopia*.—Prof. VON WILLEBRAND states (*Archiv. für Ophthalmologie*) that he has employed "*secale cornutum* in several diseases of the eye, in which I believed the evil to be removable by recalling a brisk contractility in the walls of the bloodvessels, or in other structures furnished with unstriped muscular fibres. This remedy has proven of the greatest advantage in disorders of the adjusting power of the eye. . . .

"A woman, aged 28, of a fine, healthy appearance, who had always enjoyed good health, and who had gone through two favourable confinements, the last of them four years before, complained of great deterioration of sight, so that she could not occupy herself for longer than some five minutes at a time in sewing or reading, when the letters seemed to mix together, and pain arose in the eyes, spreading to the brow and temples. Were they, on the contrary, wholly unemployed, she felt no pain in the eyes, and found her power of vision pretty much as it had always been. The patient thought she had remarked this irritability of the eyes to have come gradually on for two years, contemporaneously with diminished menstruation. No morbid change could be detected about the eyes. The pupils were somewhat contracted, but quite movable. The patient could distinguish near and distant objects as formerly. Her visual distance was normal. The eyeballs felt something firmer than common. There was no doubt that the disease consisted in a disturbance of the adjusting power; it appeared to me certain also that a chronic congestive state of the eyes was present, and that this was probably the cause of the disturbance in the adjusting power of the eye. The case presented nothing further worthy of note, except that the bowels were slow.

"I ordered ten grains of *secale cornutum* with carbonate of magnesia, four times a day. I saw the patient again in four days; she was overjoyed at the improvement which had taken place. She could now read and sew with ease. This state lasted four months, after which the patient observed that the disease returned. The same means was again employed, and with equal benefit. Since then she has seldom required to have recourse to it, so long as she follows the advice given her, to use her eyes sparingly in reading and sewing.

"More recently, I have in cases of disturbance of the adjusting power, always used the same means, and with constant good effect. The complaint returns, indeed, readily in those cases, where the cause (for example, straining of the sight upon minute objects, especially in a bad light) cannot be avoided, yet it is removed by the same means. The young people of the ladies' school of this place, who, in consequence of strained occupation in a bent position, and of ill-arranged illumination, are exposed to the above-mentioned unfavourable circumstances for sight, have afforded me several examples of considerable derangement of the adjusting power, which all, at least for a time, have yielded to this means. I am thereby firmly convinced, that in disturbed power of adjustment the treatment by means of convex glasses is greatly aided by internal medicine. The dose of the *secale cornutum* is to be varied according to the age of the patient. Lately, I have ordered only five grains for a dose to an adult, mostly in combination with carbonate of magnesia, sometimes in chlorotic cases with iron."—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, August 23, 1858.

40. *Malposition of the Lachrymal Canaliculi*.—About eight years ago, attention was drawn to the everted punctum by Mr. Bowman, who recommended slitting up the canaliculus as a potent means of amelioration.

Mr. HAYNES WALTON has recently (*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Aug. 14th, 1858) proposed a plan of treatment which, in some cases, will afford a better result.

"The common cause of eversion of the lower punctum, unattended with

general ectropium," observes Mr. W., "is chronic inflammation at the corner of the eye, involving more or less the tarsal edge, so that this is thickened, and the movements of the canaliculus impaired or destroyed. There is, in reality, a little ectropium, a partial turning out of a very important part of the lid. I recommend nothing more than to treat this diminutive ectropium, as I have for years treated the more general and extensive, sometimes the complete eversion of the lid, by the removal of a part of the palpebral conjunctiva. A miniature operation is needed. With a very small scalpel and a fine cross-tooth pair of forceps, I dissect off a bit of the conjunctiva (not so rapid or easy a process as might be supposed), just posterior to the canaliculus, and from over the entire thickness of the cartilage. The lateral limits, I regulate by the degree of the inversion. I do nothing more, and leave the wound to cicatrize, with the advancement of which, the punctum is turned in, and, according to the lesser pathological change that it has undergone, the more perfectly will it be righted. I have often been surprised at the degree of perfection thus obtained.

"No persons have such opportunities of inquiring into the value of any class of remedies, or any plan of treatment, as one's colleagues. A man may deceive himself, but he cannot deceive them. It is, then, to my brother officers, at the special institution to which I am attached, that I refer, if reference be needed, for the confirmation of these facts.

"But the edge of the lid may be too much thickened, and otherwise altered, as in very chronic cases, when the exposure of the mucous membrane is a secondary source of irritation, and the operation will not do all that is needed. Then the canaliculus should be slit up, and the channel maintained by passing the probe daily, till the surfaces have no longer a tendency to unite. In elderly persons, and in the aged, the punctum may be displaced, falling outwards, solely because of paralysis of the orbicularis palpebrarum, there not being, as in the other instance, any structural change in the parts. Here, I have not failed to give complete relief by attending to the ectropium alone."

41. *Six Cases of Cataract in the same Family.*—Mr. J. F. STREATFIELD states (*Ophthalmic Hospital Reports*, No. iii.) that he has lately seen a family of which five children and their mother had double cataracts. "It did not appear that any of the paternal or maternal relatives had been similarly affected. The grandmother, who was present, first observed the deficiency of vision, and the defect in the eyes of her child, the mother, when she was a year and a half old, and in the second generation, at various ages, *later in life according to the seniority of the five children*; thus, the eldest for six years, and the youngest for a year and a half, are said to have had good vision. There was not in either of the cases any history of short-sightedness before the defect was evinced, and, after this time, *in a month to six weeks*, in either of the cases, the child became so blind as only to distinguish light objects. The six patients have all gray irides, and hair of a very light brown, in the younger children almost colourless. The mother has two sisters and a brother who have brown irides and good vision. All her children much resemble their mother in appearance, and all of the family, including the father (who is a labourer) are of a healthy, sanguine disposition, and have no other defects perceptible. In neither of the patients are there any corneal opacities, or unsteady movements of the eyes."

42. *Chloride of Zinc and Glycerine in Ophthalmia of New born Children.*—Dr. A. MACMILLAN recommends a solution of five grains of chloride of zinc in half an ounce of glycerine (the two to be well triturated in a glass mortar) as an application in the ophthalmia of new-born children. He applies a few drops three times a day.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, July 3, 1858.